

Infrastructure Advisory Commission

Request for Expression of Interest

At the request of the newly formed Infrastructure Advisory Commission (Commission), the City of Indianapolis (City) issued a Request for Expressed Interest (REI) on July 21, 2009, seeking a wide variety of input and solutions to the City's long-term infrastructure needs from local and nationwide businesses, citizens, nonprofits and other entities.

Releasing the REI allows the City to review all possible solutions before proposing plans and making specific decisions. The City is seeking possible solutions and approaches to save money on capital and operating expenses that impact utility rates that will not require an increase in taxes.

Distribution Methods

In order to receive a wide variety of responses from local, national and international organizations, the City used multiple



A pothole at the intersection of Illinois Street and 13th Street illustrates the constant need to fill potholes.



Stormwater projects are targeting neighborhood and street flooding throughout Marion County.

methods to distribute the REI. The City distributed the REI widely through the City's bidding opportunities Web site. The mayor's office also notified all key stakeholder groups of the release. To reach interested national and international organizations, the City utilized the media to publicize the release of the REI and how to access if interested.

Decision-making Process

After responses are received by Aug. 20, 2009, the mayor's office will review submissions and share ideas with the Commission. Then, the mayor's office will invite organizations that submitted the most innovative responses to meet and elaborate on their ideas. The REI process may result in a bid or exploration of another management strategy.

"We are looking for real solutions to the substantial infrastructure challenges facing the City, not gimmicks," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "I've directed our staff and asked the Commission to consider every single idea to reduce costs. People have enough challenges to make ends meet at home and at work, and we will consider every idea that reduces costs and reduces our impact on our environment while we make these essential improvements."

“The Mayor asked the Commission to explore the wide range of infrastructure issues, with an initial focus on how we can keep water and wastewater rates in check,” said Bill Blomquist, commission chairman and dean of the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts. “We want to make sure we look at all possible solutions and approaches to save money on capital and operating expenditures that impact these rates. It is also important that the development of solutions occur in an open and public fashion.”

Indianapolis' Infrastructure Challenges

Before requesting Mayor Ballard issue the REI, the Commission evaluated the state of the City's current infrastructure systems. After reviewing, the Commission found:

- Utility rates are on the rise — Sewer and Stormwater rates/fees could increase more than 400 percent by 2025.
- Indianapolis' water system is facing a total debt of \$928 million, which will result in sharp increases in citizens' monthly water bills.
- Sidewalks, curbs and bridges are crumbling and deteriorating.
- The City must invest between \$1.4 and \$1.7 billion to upgrade the Wastewater system by 2025 to satisfy a Consent Decree entered into with the Environmental Protection Agency.
- \$1.8 billion is needed for non mandated sanitary improvements, including the Septic Tank Elimination Program.
- \$300 million is necessary for storm water management to address significant drainage issues.
- Necessary upgrades are needed to park swimming pools, playground equipment, parking lots, roads and basketball courts to maintain safety and functionality.

Identifying Solutions

By listening to citizen feedback and soliciting international feedback regarding these topics, the Commission will provide Mayor Ballard with real solutions the city can implement to improve infrastructure while having the smallest impact on citizens' pocketbooks.



To address combined sewer overflows, Indianapolis must invest between \$1.4 and \$1.7 billion to upgrade the Wastewater system by 2025 to satisfy a Consent Decree entered into with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Comments

The Commission welcomes comments and feedback. To submit comments online, visit the mayor's Web site at www.indy.gov/mayor and click on the link to the Commission's Web site. Comments can also be submitted through the Mayor's Action Center. Call 327-4MAC to share your thoughts.